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Jan. 12, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

UD PRESIDENT BROTHER RAYMOND L. FITZ, S.M., TO BE HONORED BY LEADERSHIP DAYTON ASSOCIATION

DAYTON, Ohio — Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton, has a special fondness in his heart, and a place in his agenda, for young people.

Fitz is being honored for that commitment by the Leadership Dayton Association at its yearly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Charity Early Room of the Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College.

"Brother Fitz was selected to receive this award because he is an advocate for leadership development of our youth," said Connie Doty, president of the LDA. "He also is being honored for his overall commitment to the community and to the association."

The LDA gives honorary membership to one local individual annually who has provided distinguished service to the community and to the association.

Fitz was a key figure in the Montgomery County Child Protection Task Force, a coalition of local leaders created to find ways to reduce child abuse. Later, he became the first chair of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council. Fitz also recently chaired the Dayton Public Schools Community Advisory Council.

Fitz, 59, has served as president of UD since August 1979, making him the longest-serving top administrator in the University's 151-year history.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce formed Leadership Dayton in 1976 to develop community leaders. Leadership Dayton Association provides continuing contact among graduates of the Leadership Dayton program.

Today, the association provides continuing education and leadership development to its active members as well as serves as a forum for discussion about critical community issues and an avenue for stating positions on selected community issues, Doty said.

Fitz will join past honorees of the LDA award, including Walter Rice, David Ponitz,

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Doris Ponitz, Marvin Olinsky, Charity Early, David Holmes, John Moore Sr., Frederick C. Smith and Mervyn Alphonso.

The current Leadership Dayton Class of 2001, marks the 25th anniversary of the program, which has more than 800 graduates. For more information about the LDA or the Leadership Dayton Program, please contact Donna Childs at 937-222-1534.

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For media interviews, contact **Donna Childs** at 937-222-1534. For a digital photo, contact **Jim Pickering** at 937-229-3257 or via e-mail at pickering@udayton.edu.